

November 25, 2012

**The Trying of Our Faith – God’s Proving**  
**Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

When we talk about God’s proving or God trying many people are somewhat a little confused between whether it’s God that brings bad, God proves you with bad things, or whether it’s the devil that does it.

We learn things by practice and we can have one person explain how to do something and ask somebody else and they may tell you the exact opposite, and also ask someone else and it is somewhere in between and as a result we really don’t know what to do, and it’s the same way spiritually. Different people in the same church can have different views doctrinally. Pastor’s purpose is to erase any confusion we may have in our minds whether it’s God tempting us with evil or whether it’s the devil.

The book of James is to the New Testament what Proverbs was to the Old. The first chapter of James addresses practical issues.

**James 1:13 (KJV)**

***<sup>13</sup> Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:***

You can see from this scripture that God does not use evil or bad things to tempt or prove or test us. God does prove or test us but He does not do it with evil.

**James 1:17 (KJV)**

***<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

Verse 13 says God does not tempt us with evil, and verse 17 says every good gift is from God not the devil. God never changes God is a good God and he is wanting to give good gifts to you and I. On the other hand, the devil comes to tempt, steal and destroy. John 10:10 states that the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Anything that is evil or of destruction is not coming from God.

**James 1:2-3 (KJV)**

***<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;***

***<sup>3</sup> Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.***

Our faith will be tried our faith will be tested, our faith will be proved. It doesn’t matter if we are baby Christians or consider ourselves mature our faith will be tested, tried, and proven at

every stage of our life. The devil never gives up and he will try to bring you down render us inoperative and no effect in the kingdom of God.

**1 Peter 1:6-7 (KJV)**

***<sup>6</sup> Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:***

***<sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:***

The end result would be that we are found with all the glory and favor of God on us at the end of the proving testing and trial of our faith.

**Deuteronomy 8:2 (KJV)**

***<sup>2</sup> And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.***

Later on in the chapter tells the reason He proved them was so that He could do them good at the latter end.

God's proving will always result in God blessing us after our faith is proven genuine and real. So God proves us to see what is in our heart so that he can bless us in a greater measure in the latter end.

**1 Peter 1:6-7 (AMP)**

***<sup>6</sup> [You should] be exceedingly glad on this account, though now for a little while you may be distressed by trials and suffer temptations,***

***<sup>7</sup> So that [the genuineness] of your faith may be tested, [your faith] which is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold which is tested and purified by fire. [This proving of your faith is intended] to redound to [your] praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) is revealed.***

Not many of us Christians rejoice when we are being tested, tried and proven. But this scripture tells us to. Rejoice here means to leap and jump for joy. The reason we can is that we know what the outcome is going to be and that there are blessings just around the corner.

**1 Peter 4:12-13 (MSG)**

***<sup>12-13</sup> Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.***

**1 Peter 4:19 (MSG)**

***<sup>19</sup> So if you find life difficult because you're doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust him. He knows what he's doing, and he'll keep on doing it.***

Sometimes we wonder if it is worth it but this scripture tells us to and to keep trusting Him. We need to know God knows what He is doing and what He is doing for us.

Back to 1 Peter 1:6-7. Gold is brought to purity by fire. It liquefies under high temperatures and the impurities come to the top and are skimmed off. The trying of our faith is being compared to the purifying of gold. So the test and the proving that come from God is for you and I to allow God to get involved in our life and to skim the impurities off. Any proving and testing of our faith is intended to work for our glory not our destruction.

The word prove denotes an investigation to determine what the quality is of an object. In simple terms it is to see if we have any backbone.

Tried means to separate the impurities from that is pure.

**James 1:12 AMP)**

***<sup>12</sup> Blessed (happy, <sup>[a]</sup>to be envied) is the man who is patient under trial and stands up under temptation, for when he has stood the test and been approved, he will receive [the victor's] crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him.***

**James 1:4 (KJV)**

***<sup>4</sup> But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.***

Letting patience have her perfect work is to not give up in the midst of temptation, a proving, or a testing. The word entire means you don't turn loose of what was given you.

**Ephesians 1:3 (KJV)**

***<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:***

Factually, doctrinally and with our position according to the above scripture we have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness through Jesus Christ. There is the possibility that we cannot receive what is given us and we can let go of it. If we let go of something that was given us to be a blessing to us it is no longer a blessing or a benefit to us.

God proves us to bless us. Most of the time God proves us by blessing us to see how we are going to respond to the blessing. Have you ever blessed someone and all they want is more, more, more or became spoiled? This is what happens in the proving of God. He wants to know if our heart is to Him or toward the blessing. That is one thing, but when we pass the test He is really going to bless us.

Pressure reveals imperfections. It doesn't cause it but it causes it to show up. God's proving will do this. God wants those imperfections fixed and He will reveal areas that need change. The pressure or proving of God just like gold will reveal impurities for us to deal so that we can become a vessel holy and acceptable and have an outward manifestation to God. God sees us that way already through the finished work of Jesus Christ, but in working out our salvation, the testing and proving from God will show the impurities in our life and areas that need work.

When the pressure shows up the fault or the proving shows up the fault unless we ever deal with it and fix it there is always the possibility of disaster in our lives. God's proving and testing is going to bring out our weak points not to disqualify us but to get us to get God involved in our life to make us whole and complete.

We are going to welcome the proving because when it is all done we are going to be more like Jesus in line for our blessing. The proving of God is intended for our good.

In the proving of God when a weakness comes up or a fault is brought to light or maybe we are believing God in an area and maybe the answer seems to be withheld, in His proving we will find if we are going to trust and believe Him or if we are going to be consumed with unbelief.

**Genesis 22:1 (KJV)**

***22 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.***

God did not exclude Abraham from being proved and he won't from you or I either. We will always be proven as to whether we are going to be doers of The Word of God.

Practice forms a habit where it becomes natural and we don't have to think. God proved Abraham to see if he would still be obedient after he had been blessed.

**Genesis 22:2 (KJV)**

***<sup>2</sup> And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.***

**Genesis 22:5 (KJV)**

***<sup>5</sup> And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.***

Has Abraham just accepted the fact that he is going to bury his son? No, but he was obedient. God was proving him with obedience to see if the pressure is enough that Abraham will hang on to the blessing and not relinquish it to God.

**Genesis 22:6-8 (KJV)**

***<sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.***

<sup>7</sup> *And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*

<sup>8</sup> *And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*

**Genesis 22:10-13 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> *And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.*

<sup>11</sup> *And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.*

<sup>12</sup> *And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.*

<sup>13</sup> *And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.*

We will have weaknesses that crop up and need to be dealt with in order to go to the next level. If we don't deal with the areas that come up will become lukewarm and even start staying away from church and even quit working in the church and become cool spiritually.

**Hebrews 11:17-19 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> *By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,*

<sup>18</sup> *Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:*

<sup>19</sup> *Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.*

Abraham kept believing God and that God would do what He promised even though all the circumstances were contrary to how God said it would be. He kept believing and stayed in faith.

Abraham passed the test. Along the journey of time as told in Genesis chapter 12 after Abraham was promised a son and when he was tested his weaknesses would show up. He dealt with every one that showed up. Then 25 years later he got what was promised. The greatest of which was that he had to believe God in the most difficult of situations. It was impossible by natural means.

We will be proved. When the weaknesses show up we will deal with them and then we will come to the place that we are complete and entire and wanting nothing. We can and will obtain if we don't cast away our confidence.

God's proving is intended to bless us.

